(b) The State Councils are expected to act as focal forums for the formulation, planning, coordination, promotion and application of science and technology for the socio-economic development of respective States. They are also expected to help in preparing State Science and Technology Plans, compilation and dissemination of Science and Technology information and popularisation of science in the States.

Withdrawal of IPKF from Sri Lanka

188. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of IPKF troops withdrawn from Sri Lanka so far; and

(b) what is the number of troops remaining behind in Sri Lanka as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Certain elements of the IPKF which are not operationally required in Sri Lanka have been withdrawn. It is not desirable to disclose details of induction/deinduction of troops.

(b) The present strength of the IPKF in Sri Lanka is approximately 48,000.

Allotment of seats of National Council of JCM

189. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the basis for allotment of staff side seats of the National Council of JCM to different associations/federations of the Central Government employees recognised for the purpose; and

(b) what is the actual composition of the National Council of JCM, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Staff Side on the National Council is represented by not more than 60 members nominated by recognized federations/unions in various Departments. The distribution of seats was agreed and adopted by all participating federations/unions associations when the JCM Scheme was put into operation in 1966 keeping in view broadly the numerical strength of eligible employees at that time.

(b) At present the Official Side consists of 25 senior officials of various Departments/Ministries and the Staff Side has 49 staff representatives. The Cabinet Secretary is the Chairman of the National Council.

Death of a Patient in Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi

190. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether medical authorities in Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi are making an enquiry into the death of one patient after he was administered the contaminated intravenous fluid;

(b) whether the enquiry report has been received by Government if so, the details thereof;

(c) what action Govrnment propose to take in the matter; and

(d) whether Government propose to overhaul the present policy regarding quality control of drugs and food by making it a totally central responsibility, especially in view of the inter-state trade, movement and marketing of these products?